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Issue 30

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There was a time when being a fairy really meant something!

FREEP LOOKS AT SOME OF THE PROBLEMS OF BEING GAY ON THE CENTRE PAGES

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AND LOTS MORE INSIDE

Put the hoof in

Dear Freep,

I see that STAG, the local mouth piece for motor transport interests is now trying to sabotage the Picc-Vic scheme. At a time when the squeeze is on funds for Greater M/C transport, STAG has decided to put the hoof in. The group has said that it will oppose the Picc-Vic tunnel if "badly needed road schemes suffer as a result". Every time I pass Norman Quicks flashy Ford show rooms on my way to watch United, I ponder on his recent remarks about the "economic benefits" of road development. His position as chairman of STAG is about the most naked expression of self interest you could imagine. Incidentally, when are those of us who use bicycles - the only ecologically sound mode of transport - going to get a bit of protection from the local constabulary against persistent and malicious attempts on our lives by car drivers.

Yours peacefully,
cycling Paul Sykes,
Longsight.

FROM OUR READERS

Oh dear

Dear Freep,

Issue 29 carried a piece of good, straight reporting on an important question - a meeting between Stockport women & their MP on the Equal Opportunities Bill. But why did you spoil the piece by using the sexist headline "Member Pressed". This just trivialises the whole thing.

Yours,
Bob Donn,
Wythenshawe.

Stew in error

Dear Freepeople,

Ta for your cautionary, very informative tale of a shirt last ish. But you said that banks will not stop a cheque if it's used with a cheque card. My bank has just refused such a cheque. Admittedly I made a mistake when I wrote it out, but it passed unnoticed by me & the shop assistant. But not the bank. Now the shop will have to get the money from me. So can you tell me what to do? Should I pay them immediately, wait a bit & then let them have the money - or use their own tactics & let the bastards stew?

Yours in error,
John Ganner,
Irlam Rd,
Eccles.

Ed: It's up to you, but since you've still got whatever it was you bought, you certainly owe them the money & they could sue you for it.

REMEMBER

Send your fun packed letters to:
8A Raynham Avenue,
Didsbury, M/C 20.

Do it yourself

Dear Freep,

Thought your readers might like to know about the 'Do it yourself Injunction Kit' for battered wives that we've produced. Battering is one area of the law where women find difficulty in getting representation. Many firms don't deal with this type of injunction & many that do are so slow in applying for the injunction that the courts, which work on the idea that slowness in applying means that the battering is not serious, do not grant it. Our kit shows how to go about getting an injunction & how to avoid the many pitfalls. Price is 25p.

Yours,
Paddington Law Centre,
465, Harrow Road,
London W 10.

PUBLISHED BY MANCHESTER FREE PRESS GROUP, 8a Raynham Avenue, Mchr 20 061-434 1591

PRINTED BY MOSS SIDE PRESS, 21a Princess Road, Manchester 14 061-226 7115

DISTRIBUTED BY US

DESIGN BY SNAIL GRAPHICS

ADS: Classified 2p a word. Display & semi-display rates on request

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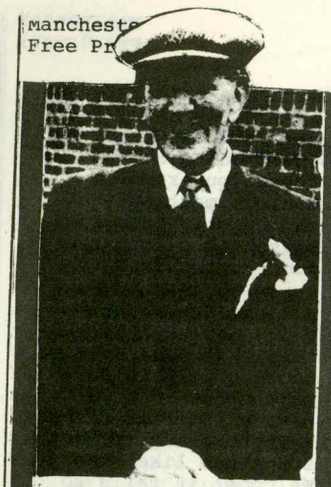


While Mike Delahey was interviewing Jill Liddington on Look North about her women's classes in M/C, Jill complained about the way that TV trivialises women's lib. At the end of the interview, the camera panned back to BBC's ageing presenter Stuart Hall: "Tee hee. Michael burnt his bra last year". What did you say again Jill?

Manchester is to spend a small fortune on environmental window dressing in Moss Side. Trees will be planted, pavements painted etc. Reaction from tenants living in the nightmare Moss Side properties? "It's like putting an elastoplast on a broken leg".

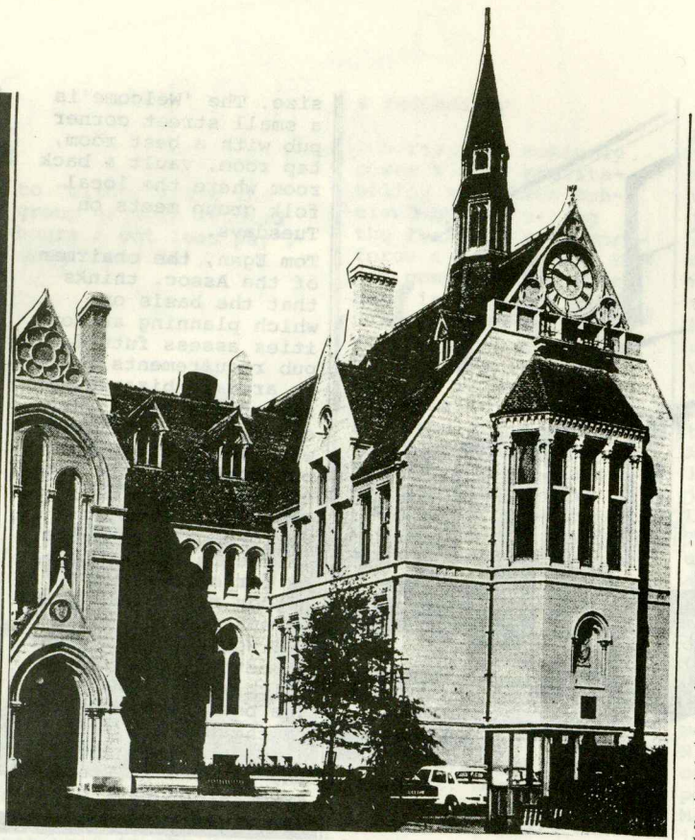
Industrial deafness is so common in the North West that cinema loudspeakers are usually set 10% higher than those in the South.

Sir Jack Cohen, boss of Tesco is making sacrifices. In these days of austerity he no longer uses his Rolls-Royce. He is making do with the company Jaguar.

Austerity is also coming to M/C. The chairman of the GMC council is to get a new Daimler sovereign. It's claimed that the Daimler will cost less to maintain than a mini.

FAC up
City 0 Newcastle 2
Walsall 3 United 2

'nuff said



Too half hearted by half

THE ACQUISITION of a knighthood by M/C University boss, Arthur Armitage, has been greeted with relief by senior academics at the institution. It's been suggested that fear of student unrest upsetting the New Year Honours applecart has been the underlying cause of the vice chancellor's erratic behaviour in recent months. His handling of staff & student demands for the University to sell its shares in companies with South African connections has caused a number of raised eyebrows in the Senior Common Room. November's University Council meeting broke up in disarray when Armitage panicked in the face of a large unexpected delegation of students & the meeting of the University Court scheduled for the following week was hastily postponed in an unprecedented move.

His performance at a subsequent meeting of the Senate, when the academic body called for more action on the share question, was widely regarded as a fiasco.

More importantly, there are signs that the continued pressure & militancy of the 'sell the shares' movement are beginning to tell in other ways. The University recently admitted that it had, at long last, sold some of its shares in companies with apartheid subsidiaries. Investments unloaded are:

British Oxygen
Assoc. British Foods
Jessel Securities
Wilkinson Match
Delta Metal
Rank Hovis McDougall
Assoc. Portland Cement
Bestobell

The decision was made by the University's Investment of Funds committee on the basis of an 'unsatisfactory' response by the firms to correspondence from the Bursar, Mr McComas. A report from Christian Concern for Southern Africa also affected the decision.

The irony of the situation is simple. It's taken 2 years for the University to become seriously embarrassed by its investment portfolio. In that time, its shares have more than halved in value. In the light of the current financial squeeze, the consequences of the University's intransigence are clear.

It is important to note that the shares sold represent only a small fraction of the total investment in firms with apartheid links. Staff and students will step up the camaign for complete disinvestment in the weeks ahead.

Liberals ward off centre

STOCKPORT IS to spend £208,000 on building an Assessment Centre in Short Street. The Centre will be used to decide the placement of children taken into the care of the local authority, either through court orders or through place of safety orders. Until the Centre is finished, Stockport will have to continue its present miserable policy of farming out its problem children out to other local authorities who do have adequate facilities., & for which Stockport has to pay a fee.

The decision to build the much needed Centre has also caused some rather malodourous political wrangles in the borough. Originally, Stockport's social services committee planned to build the Centre on a vacant site near a primary school in Banks Lane. But Liberal/Tory opposition started to mount when wild rumours circulated that the Centre would be used for sex offenders etc. Public meetings were held, petitions drawn up & the Liberals, jumping on the "community politics" bandwaggon (& perhaps influenced by the fact that the Banks Lane site is close to Liberal held constituencies), stated their opposition to this proposal. They also asked that any proposals for the re-siting of the Centre should be subject to the "conduct of an effective consultation exercise with the public of the area concerned". Opposition to the Bank St site was rewarded at the December council meeting when the site was changed to Short St. This belated change of site has annoyed the Labour group because it may delay completion of the Centre and who mutter disgustedly about "what community politics really means".

Oh what a welcome

THE WELCOME INN, in Rusholme, one of M/C's inner suburbs, is threatened with demolition due to redevelopment in the area. Customers were sufficiently concerned about there being no plans to replace the pub, that they have formed the 'Welcome Inn Patrons Assoc'. This group aims to keep the pub open for as long as practicable & to try & get it replaced with a pub in the same general vicinity with similar character and size. The 'Welcome'is a small street corner pub with a best room, tap room, vault & back room where the local folk group meets on Tuesdays.

Tom Egan, the chairman of the Assoc. thinks that the basis on which planning authorities assess future pub requirements for an area is bizarre.He says "It appears they consult the local brewers assoc.directly but confine their attempts to reach the people to sticking notices on lamp posts in the relevant area. As far as I'm aware, nobody reads lamp posts except possibly dogs & I would have thought it better sense to stick the notice on the beer pumps or even in the toilet". He's also concerned about the way the NW Brewers Association have dealt with the matter in the 'Welcome's case. They seem to have based their calculations for future pub requirements almost entirely on the existing gross barrelage of all the pubs in the area related to existing and predicted population. They concluded from this that 'The Welcome could go. "This may make sense in a relatively isolated community" he argues,"but for a pub like 'The Welcome' it fails to take into account the wide catchment area, including the University campus, from which the pub draws its patrons. It's particularly sad because 'The Welcome' does provide a genuine meeting place between students & the rest of the community, where each can learn something about the other".

Houses fit for Lords?

SALFORD'S NOTORIOUS "stuff the tenants" council got yet another judicial smack in the eye recently. This time it was delivered by no less a person than Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, sitting with 2 of his illustrious chums in the Queen's Bench Divisional Court.
Lord Widgery dismissed Salford's appeal against a magistrate's order which required the council to repair Brenda McNally's house in Lower Broughton.
Mrs McNally's council house has rising damp, perished plaster, a rotting back door & an insanitary & crumbling outside toilet. The house is one of more than 900 which were declared unfit & compulsorily purchased by Salford in 1968. Demolition of these slums was later deferred for at least 7 years.
Salford argued in effect, that spending money on such houses is wasteful since their life is strictly limited. The Court sympathised but found that under the Public Health Acts tenants must be protected from such housing conditions.

The Court's decision is a major victory for the Lower Broughton Housing Action Group & for Shelter, which has supported the Group & has backed Mrs McNally in the Courts. The council now faces 87 more summonses taken out by Lower Broughton tenants who are trying to get something done about their appalling housing conditions.

But at the moment,Salford seems more interested in further appeals (this time to the House of Lords) than in the job of finally repairing its slums. On past form, dynamic action can be expected at any time in the next decade or two.

All around the houses

MANCHESTER, SALFORD & Stockport now have over 25,000 people on their council house waiting lists. Manchester has 15,315 people waiting; Salford has 6,300 & Stockport has just under 4,000.

But Manchester, with the largest list, at least deserves some congratulations for attempting to solve some of its problems. In 1974, Manchester built 2,504 new council houses & modernised a further 1,035. In 1975 they plan to build a further 2,300 new houses plus 2,000 more modernisations. An overwhelming majority of M/C's new houses are low rise developments since Moss Side & Hulme style projects are no longer officially favoured. This policy does not of course, help those families who are forced to live in these blocks & who are still campaigning for immediate rehousing.

Manchester's efforts dwarf those of Stockport. Between April & December, Stockport built 274 houses and flats, & modernised 208. They also have a further 353 dwellings under construction and plan to put out tenders for another 178 before April 1975 to give a grand total of 806 dwellings between April '74 & April '75. But not all the 806 will be council houses. 35-40% of them are Housing Association properties in which the council has some tenancy nomination rights.

To be fair to Stockport, it should be pointed out that these figures are considerably better than in past years & that greater efforts are promised for the future. The council has started council house building again & has just agreed in principle to a 6 year scheme for the modernisation of 8,681 houses. Gone are the days when Stockport left a patch of land derelict for so long that an enterprising citizen could fence it off & become the legal owner, thus forcing the council to buy the land for a 2nd time.

Safari sunk

THE LUNATIC scheme to turn part of Reddish Vale, Stockport, into a safari park (Freep 26) has been refused planning permission by Stockport's Development Control sub-committee. The scheme will now be considered by the GMC but it's thought to stand no chance of success.

Courtaulds crafty Kearton

DESPITE THE oil crisis & the 3 day week, the Courtaulds textile giant managed to announce a remarkable increase in profits for 1974 (they went up by 70%). The company also got 2 Queen's Awards to Industry for its exporting capacity. Counter Information Services, in a recently published anti-report, take a close look at Courtaulds & trace its history from a 1775 family business to the multi national concern it is today.

The Chairman, Lord Kearton, is often referred to as a "socialist" because, among other things, he backed the miners & railway men in their pay disputes. But such "socialist" principles do not appear to extend to his own employees. When his own workers go on strike, they are often threatened with plant closure & unemployment (see Freep 28). And during the 3 day week, some salaried sections of Courtaulds received letters telling them to "either leave the group or work reduced hours & get less pay", (see Freep 26).

Courtauld employees are already among the lowest paid in the country, & between 1970 & 1973 the UK labour force was reduced by 17,000 (a job loss of 12.3%). In addition to being lowly paid, Kearton's workers are faced with the constant threat of closure & redundancy.

"Courtaulds' monopoly power & high profitability have been acheived by exploiting the fears of both workforce & government. It has consistently operated in areas of high unemployment where the workforce is more vulnerable. By arguing that it is the saviour of a declining industry & manipulating national fears of unemployment, the company has succeeded in benefiting from tariff protection & substantial financial support from the state"

Extract from C.I.S. anti-report.

Kearton's "socialist" principles do not apparently encompass womens equality either. In 1973-74, adult women got an average £19.85 per week. Men got almost double that (£38.37). And abroad, Kearton has no "socialist" qualms about exploiting cheap black labour in the company's South African operations. And at home, the firm benefits from the exploitation of immigrant workers.

In other words, company profits soar because they depend on a weak, vulnerable workforce - women, immigrants, old folk & people who fear unemployment more than most because there's nothing else for them to do in the area. The Lancashire textile industry has been particularly badly hit by the policy of intensifying capital rather than labour. Between August 1970 & November 1971, a total of 15,000 jobs disappeared in Lancashire textiles. This was obviously an underestimate since a large number of the female employees were married women 'who paid only Industrial Injuries Insurance contributions & therefore did not register at employment exchanges'. The N.W. Industrial Development Association reported that between March '71 & March '72 jobs in the area disappeared at the rate of 1,250 per week.

The CIS anti-report No. 10 "Courtaulds Inside-Out", is available for 30p + 10p post, from 52 Shaftesbury Ave, London W1.

Spaghetti stupidity

SALFORD'S PLANS to rehouse several thousand of its slum dwellers 100 yards from Spaghetti junction in the Walkden marshes, are being met with an understandably cool response from the Greater M/C Planning Committee.

1,300 Salford houses are in urgent need of demolition, but there isn't enough space to build new ones within the borough boundaries. The G.M.C. believes that overspill estates in Wigan & Bolton are the answer to Salford's problems, rather than to build on a site already designated a green belt & which is isolated from existing social & shopping facilities.

Since the G.M.C. can only make recommendations to Salford, chances are that many Salfordians will be exchanging their slum houses for new ones in a publess, shopless swamp with a scenic view of the M62, M61 interchange.

Animal crackers

THE GLOOM of my Monday morning journey to work was dispelled last week by the sighting of a kestrel (Falce Tinnunculus) hovering in search of prey over a slum clearance site in the middle of the city. This elegant predator seems to be thriving in inner Manchester. One pair even nested successfully in the tower of the Refuge Building on Oxford Road, and kestrel sightings are now almost commonplace. The birds live on a rich diet of mice and other vermin flushed ffrom buildings in the process of demolition. But the future of the bird may be threatened if pressure from inner city residents, who consider mice etc a health hazard, finally forces the M/C rodent officers to wage war on the kestrel's primary food supply. So far no such action has been taken - last year cases of mice infestation increased to 4421 so the birds' food is still common enough to dispel immediate worry.

Beauty & the feast

IT WON'T surprise many readers that there was a dismal turnout of N.W. businessmen at the British Safety Council's breakfast on December 17th. The idea was to discuss safety at work but a mere 17 industrialists turned up at 8am in the Grand Hotel in response to the 5000 invitations (including stamped reply envelopes sent to bosses of M/C area firms. Apart from confirming the obvious disregard of industry's managers for the health & safety of their workers, the event also cast a peculiar light on the activities of the British Safety Council. This body is registered under the Charities Act & projects itself as having "Britains largest safety membership" & to service 25,000 factories,mines etc employing 12 million workers.

Meagre

The select group present for the meagre breakfast of croissants & coffee soon discovered that they were to be treated to a promotion talk about the BSC Diploma in Safety Management training course. This was a short slides & chat show given by former Max Factor beauty consultant Faye Rothwell.

No Sweat

Although impressively described as "Diploma in Health & Safety Administrator" Ms Rothwell's background seems far removed from the sweat & dirt of the shop floor. Breakfasters were baffled by an official biography which indicated that MsRothwell was coaxed from "the glamour world of cosmetics and fashion" by the "lure of lights" & subsequently appeared in over 300 commercials for TV and films.In 1972 she joined the British Safety Council's telephone sales department from where she's made startling, rapid progress to her present position. Her qualifications for work in the health & safety field are a little unclear but the BSC is clearly impressed by the fact that during her career, she has promoted "everything from soap to an anti-smoking campaign".

It's evident that Faye Rothwell's role is part of a none too subtle strategy to tap the vast resources of sexism among British bosses since genuine interest in safety is so rare.Mr James Tye, Director General of BSC, confirmed this in his introduction of Ms Rothwell:"not only fluent but looks beautiful as well".

During breakfast it became abundantly clear that such tactics were to founder on the rock of hard headed commercial considerations. The only points raised by the representatives of Manchester's business community, before they rushed out en masse, concerned the cost of training & the fact that as soon as a manager became trained he was liable to move to a larger firm with bigger money.

Mundane

The mundane level of everything mentioned about safety that morning raises many doubts about the quality of the Diploma in Safety Management training course. Although the BSC guarantees the diploma as "an in depth training in all aspects of industrial safety" & expounds at length on its "professionalism" & "rigour", closer investigation reveals a startling state of affairs.The actual training consists of a mere 19½ days course work & about the same for a project. Within the course "total" loss control is dealt with in 3 days & health & work environment is also given a pathetic 3 days. Trainees are given help with their "thesis" by none other than Faye Rothwell. Training for the Diploma is carried out on the ship, the St. Katherine, moored in a River Thames dock. The vessel's commander, Ian Major, is also Chief Safety Instructor. The course costs about £400. In a transparent attempt to give such a superficial course some status, diplomas have been presented with pomp & ceremony at the House of Lords.

Shocking

It's a shocking reflection on the state of safety control in industry when the British Safety Council can describe holders of this diploma (based on a 19½ day course) as the "safety world elite".

Surprise surprise

THE USUAL reactionary Liberal/Tory alliance in Stockport has struck again. A Labour motion calling for a closed shop for Town Hall workers was defeated at the December council meeting. Incidentally, councillor Box, the former Liberal leader voted with the Labour group, but the rest of the Liberals voted with the Tories.

More Sshac roofs

SSHAC (STOCKPORT Shelter Housing Action Committee) now has the 20 houses from the corporation that were promised under the agreement signed 2 months ago. After a lot of effort, 15 are now occupied: that means 50 people have been rescued from housing misery. Work is proceeding on the other 5. Rents are coming in & with cash support from the council, the financial side seems under control. What's more important is that Stockport council has agreed to extend the scheme beyond these 20 houses & group organiser,Damian Grant expects that SSHAC may have 30 or even 40 houses in the near future. Anyone who's interested should contact D.Grant at 7 Norman Rd, Heaton Moor, Tel 432 3752.

Moss noos

MOSS SIDE Neighbourhood Council has started a much needed tenants' newspaper "Neighbourhood News", which will deal with problems of the tenants, council decisions etc.

Clamp down on CLASP

THE DISASTROUS fire at the Nottinghamshire Fairfield Home for old people has once again spotlighted the hazards attached to building programmes run on the cheap. The system of construction used is known as CLASP & has been used by Manchester for 57 educational buildings in the city. The CLASP system of building is a prefabricated design based on a light steel frame. The fact that their combustibility is much higher than buildings made of brick & stone was highlighted dramatically in February '73 when the Burgess Becker primary school in Harpurhey, M/C was destroyed by fire. A senior fire officer at the time remarked at how quickly the building had been reduced to a burnt out wreck.
One of the main reasons for this was the existence of roof voids which allowed flames to engulf all sections of the building with lightening speed. As a result, Manchester instigated a safety improvement scheme for a number of the CLASP schools,including fire stopping on school roof spaces. The cost of this £200,000. It's a matter for speculation how many more large bills will be incurred in hasty programmes to patch up unsafe buildings commissioned by M/C out of a short sighted desire for the cheap & quick.

The use of high alumina cement for many school rooves has already required enormous time & expense to make them safe.

Another problem which may soon necessitate further attention is the use of combustible materials, especially plastics, in claddings, linings & partitions. The Fire Protection Association wrote to all directors of education in October 1973 criticising the use of these in many new schools.

What a lock up

A NEWS item on "Granada Reports" a couple of months ago provoked some strong criticism from Salford Social Services of unfair reporting.The report described the fate of an adolescent girl Shirley, who'd been placed in Prestwich Psychiatric Hospital because nowhere more suitable could be found for her. The basis of Salford's complaints was that Shirley attended Cleveland House Day Centre in Salford & only spent the evenings and weekends at Prestwich, so in their view Granada reported the situation unfairly. Granada therefore agreed to redress the balance by producing a film about Cleveland House in which Shirley figured prominently. But Salford shouldn't be let off so lightly.

When Shirley stayed at Salford's Observation & Assessment Centre,Manor Heath, she was diagnosed as aggressive & emotionally disturbed but she was NOT classified as being psychiatrically disturbed, which is what Prestwich hospital is for. Salford therefore put Shirley in Prestwich knowing it was unsuitable. It was only after widespread coverage in the press & on television that she was admitted to Cleveland House & she is likely to remain in Prestwich for the foreseeable future.

Shop Signtology

YOU CAN'T believe everything you read. Well, maybe in Freep. But NOT in the shops. Look at these signs we saw in some of them. Are the city centre shops making their own laws? Freep set out the shops' obligations & the buyers rights in issue 28. Briefly & simply, if the goods are defective they must refund your money. This is provided you didn't know about the defect before you bought it.

So the law says CASH back. Not replacement. Not credit note. Not exchange. It doesn't matter that the goods are in a sale or are seconds. You are entitled to your cash back provided that the defect you are complaining about hadn't been pointed out to you & provided also that if you examined the goods before you bought, the kind of examination you carried out would not have revealed the defect.

Prize for the most misleading sign of the above entrants was unanimously awarded to 'Wallis' - the judges commended their imagination in introducing a 3 day time limit for returning goods. Pity they don't sell running shoes. A special mention goes to 'Chelsea Girl' for persistent denial of the consumer-rights in the field of footwear - whether in the sale or not. Pity they didn't take a leaf out of Woolworth's book: "Satisfaction guaranteed. Replacement or your money back". Quite so.

If you're not fooled by these signs, you will demand your money back. If they won't refund your cash our wonderful legal system permits you to sue them in the County Crt. Drawback is - you have to pay your own legal costs for a claim under £100. Lawyers are expensive.
There's a cheap alternative in the M/C Small Claims Court. This has recently raised its limits to claims worth up to £250. You don't use a lawyer. You pay a fee of £1 & there is an informal hearing when you sit round a table with an arbitrator. He hears the argument & makes his decision. If you don't want to attend,the case can be heard in your absence. Drawback? The procedure is voluntary - there's no way of forcing the shop to come to the Small Claims Court.

Chelsea Girl
"No exchange or refunds on FOOTWEAR or reduced goods"

Salisburys
"We regret sale goods can not be exchanged"

Kurtis
"Sale goods can't be returned or exchanged"

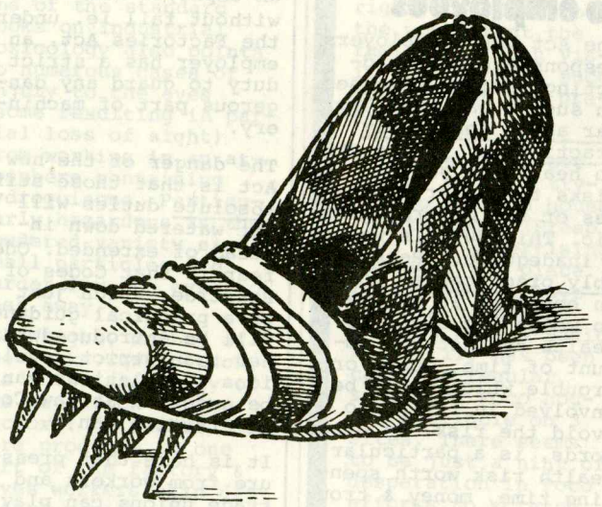
Paul Adam
"We do exchange goods but regret we do not refund cash"

Westerner
"Sale goods are not returnable"

Wallis
"Goods can only be exchanged if returned in perfect condition within 3 days of purchase with receipt" & "Reduced garments cannot be exchanged or money refunded"

Crowthers
"No goods will be exchanged unless stated on the receipt 'can be exchanged' & "No cash refunds given"

Guys & Dolls
"We are unable to exchange or credit articles which have been reduced"



All teeth and no bite

Last issue, Freep took a look at the Factory Inspector's Report & mentioned the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974. But what is this Act you might have asked? What does it do? Well, it doesn't really do a great deal because it's just an enabling Act ie. it gives a basic framework within which new laws can be introduced to make the work place safer. It doesn't in itself make safety regulations. The Act is based on the Robens Report which came to the conclusion that the major reason for accidents at work was apathy. It also said that there's too much law so if we reduce the amount of law presumably things will get better. But would there be no apathy if there was no law? Does the law against dangerous & drunken driving make people more apathetic about dangerous & drunken driving?

PROVISIONS

The main provisions of the Act don't come into effect until 1st April 1975 & by that time employers will have to:
a) draw up a written safety policy & let his employees know what it is;
b) set up safety training & instruction programmes if they haven't already done so;
c) consult the safety committee & representatives (once the Sec. for State has made some regulations about how they should be appointed or elected).

Industry tends to wait for a disaster to happen & then act instead of looking to the future & trying to anticipate where danger might come from. Further, there's a consistent tendency to approach safety legislation on the basis of isolating one particular evil at a time, which makes the law bitty & far from complete.

The Act will eventually replace the present hotch-potch of safety at work law (all 30 Statutes of it) under one umbrella Act. Perhaps the most constructive thing the Act does is to extend an employers duty to the general public & to those workers who are not at present protected by legislation ie. workers in hotels, pubs, civil engineering in tunnels & bridges and education. There are approximately 6 million people at present employed in premises not subject to any regulation for occupational health & safety.
An employer of these workers will be liable to prosecution if he breaks his duty but a man injured because of that breach willl not be able to recover damages under the Act. His only chance of compensation will still be under the lottery of common law negligence. Only when the govmt makes specific regulations for the particular industry will such a worker have a statutory right to compensation.

ENFORCEMENT

To enforce whatever regulations are made, two bodies have been

Duties under the Act

To employees

The Act makes employers responsible for conducting their businesses in such a way that "so far as is reasonably practicable", there are no health or safety risks to either employees or the general public. This duty is weak & inadequate. "Reasonably practicable" means an employer is allowed to weigh the risks to health against the amount of time, money or trouble which would be involved in trying to avoid the risk. In other words, is a particular health risk worth spending time, money & trouble on?

The present law imposes some strict obligations on employers so that there are some actions an employer must take without fail ie. under the Factories Act, an employer has a strict duty to guard any dangerous part of machinery.

The danger of the new Act is that those stiff absolute duties will get watered down instead of extended. One fear is that Codes of Practice, which just give practical guidance, will be introduced rather than strict regulations. Regulations can be enforced at law. Codes of Practice can't.

It is here that pressure from workers and trade unions can play a vital role to get Regulations introduced quickly & to put forward proposals to make sure they impose strict duties & do not put profits before safety.

To public

An employer also has a duty of care to people who are not employed by him but may be affected by industrial processes. Similar duties are imposed on designers, manufacturers, importers & suppliers of articles or substances used at work.

By employees

All employees now have an obligation to take reasonable care for their own safety &for the safety of others who are likely to be affected by their acts. This means that a worker could be prosecuted if his carelessness resulted in injury to someone.

set up. A 9 man Health & Safety Commission was set up in October 1974 to take over from the 5 government depts which administer the safety laws at the moment. The Commission, with trade unionists & CBI men on it, will give advice, information, research & training about safety at work. The Secretary of State is responsible for making new regulations but he must always consult the Commission first if he decides to make them on his own initiative.One of the Commissions duties is to suggest what regulations should be made.
The other body, the Executive, was set up on 1st January '75 to replace the 7 safety at work inspectorates such as the Factories, Mines & Quarries & Alkali inspectorates.

In addition to the present powers of an inspector to enter buildings at any time & inspect, take samples, seize or destroy any article, the inspectors of the new Executive will have powers to issue an order - improvement & prohibition notices - on their own initiative. Inspectors will also have an obligation to divulge safety information to workers or their representatives, which is something they were not expressly required to do before.
So trade unionists should remember that they now have a legal right to demand information about hazards which threaten their health & to see the results of medical surveys conducted on the workers.

PENALTIES

For failing to carry out a duty required by the Act or an 'improvement/prohibition' notice, an offender can be liable to a maximum fine of £400 (on summary conviction), or to an unlimited fine plus 2 years in prison (on indictment). But who on earth are they going to imprison - the managing director? And

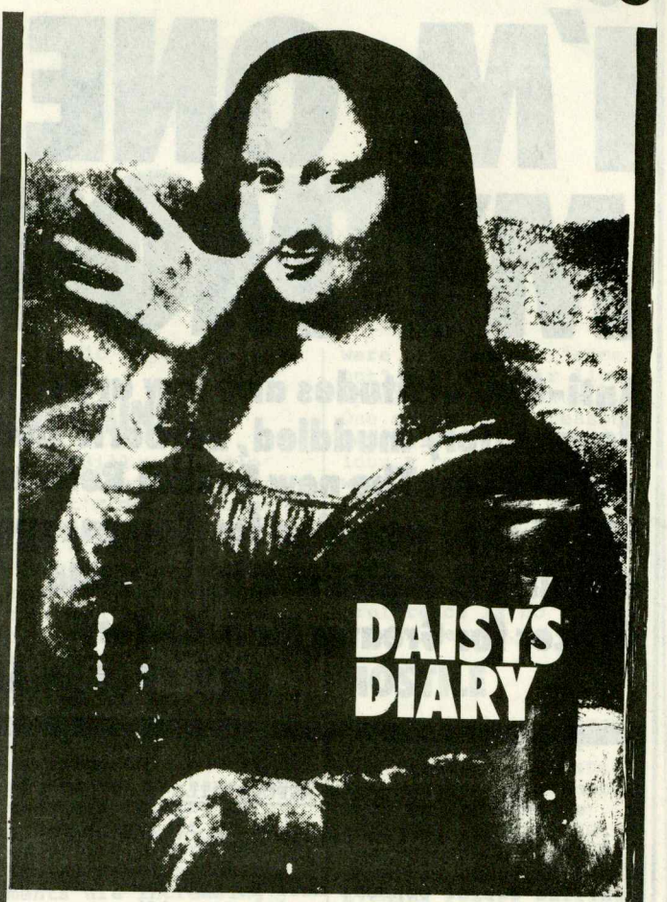
what's £400 to an employer when he can save thousands by not buying safe equipment.

Ciba's blind spot

WORKERS AT Ciba-Geigy's Trafford Park plant have decided that firm collective action is the way to deal with chemical hazards to health. Management recently tried to introduce the use of Hydroquinone into the works with bland assurances that it would be safe. The label on the finely powdered hydroquinone however, was enough to arouse anyone's suspicions - "May cause skin irritation. Avoid contact with skin...The Goodyear Tyre & Rubber Co will not be responsible for any ailments caused by this product".

Luckily one worker remembered that at another place he'd worked, precautionary eye tests were required for people coming in contact with the chemical. Although management argued that this was unnecessary, information was later received from shop stewards at the photographic firm of Ilford at Liverpool (which also has hydroquinone), that one third of the workforce had been taken off because of damage to eyes. One of the standard books on industrial toxicology also points to numerous cases of injury to the eyes (some resulting in partial loss of sight) from working in an atmosphere containing hydroquinone. Particularly hazardous is the powdered variety since small particles are harder for the eyes to wash away.

Bob Wright, member of the works TGWU branch, has noted the irony of the situation in the factory: "It makes skin care products in one part of the factory & gives workers skin disease in another".
The union, unwilling to place its members health in jeopardy,has blacked the hydroquinone job and now intends to monitor every chemical which comes in.



I hear that a Moss Side woman found a large bug swimming around in some food she had foolishly left unguarded on the work top.Nothing unusual in this you may think. Bugs,you will correctly point out, are rife on the Moss & can be dealt with by a quick blast from the fumigation squad. Quite right too. I've told the woman that the fumigators 15th visit will be more successful than the previous 14.

I notice that Poco Homes, who are trying to sell 55 houses to Stockport (Freep 29), are advertising all over the place. Full page ads have gone into the M/C Evening News & Radio Piccadilly has been carrying regular spots for Poco houses available on 3 sites. There seems to be just a hint of desperation in Poco's efforts to scratch in cash for their slow selling little boxes.

Whilst sitting quietly in a local hostelry the other day, I happened to notice a couple of Evening News hacks work themselves into something of an emotional state. They'd heard rumours, fortunately untrue, that the News was going to blow out my friend Joan Bakewell's regular Monday column. Manchester readers will still be able to delight in Joanies fascinating doings at the Epsom & Ewell Literary Society & in her conatcts with cottage industry in Burham, Bucks.

I can really sympathise with the poorer class of person in these inflation hit times. Beluga caviar, which cost me only £28 per lb in 1972, is now £47 per lb, & my hamper from Fortnum & Mason this year was £250 instead of £150 in '72. It's no cheaper eating out either - the editorial group's annual champagne supper at the Savoy set them back £210 this year instead of £108 in 72. And as for the pheasant shooting! Well! In '72 it was only £600/800 a day,but now it's £800/2000 per day.

I'M ONE OF THOSE MY MOTHER WARI

Anti-Gay attitudes and law are still desparately muddled, barbaric and out of date. The new Sexual Reform Bill of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality is explained by its Field Officer for Greater Manchester,

BOB CROSSMAN

CHE'S SEXUAL LAW REFORM BILL

1. Extension of Law Reform to Scotland and N. Ireland.

2. The age of consent must be the same for homosexuals as for heterosexuals (ie. 16).

3. There must be the same definition of privacy for homosexual acts as for heterosexual ones.

4. "Indecency" & "Persistent Soliciting" must be re-defined so that homosexual conduct (between males or females) is not to be prosecuted where comparable heterosexual conduct would not be subject to such prosecution.

5. The restrictions in civilian law on homosexual behaviour by members of the Armed Forces & the Merchant Navy must be removed.

6. Homosexual literature & adverts aimed at homosexual men & women must be treated on the same basis as heterosexual publications.

7. The provisions of the Anti Sex Discrimination Bill must be extended to cover cases of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

8. The offences of 'rape' and 'indecent assault' must be abolished and replaced by 'sexual intercourse without consent'.

There are at least 3 million predominantly homosexual men & women in this country & millions more who are bisexual. It's therefore astonishing that people claim not to know any gays.

CONVENTION

There is little genuine acceptance of gayness as a true lifestyle. The conventional image of male homosexuals as "pansies" & of female ones as "butch", reflects the commonly held view that homosexual behaviour is a betrayal of the roles which our society expects men & women to play. The convention is that men are strong, brave, aggressive and dominating, while women are expected to be child-rearers, homemakers, compliant and submissive, so anyone who steps outside this gender role is immediately suspect. Like everyone else, gays are affected by social conditioning & many become distressed by the mere fact that they are "different". They become isolated & find it difficult to form relationships with other gays, & because they can't display their feelings overtly towards others are forced into furtive gropings in public lavatories or saunas - or complete celibacy.

HOSTILITY

Gays suffer hostility from parents, families, landlords, neighbourhoods, local authority housing officials, employers & building societies. Further, when gay women are going through divorce proceedings, it's likely that they will lose custody of their own children if it's known that they're gay.

THE LAW

The largest gay organisation in Europe is the Manchester based Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE). There's a network of 107 local groups throughout the country (7 of them being in the Greater M/C area), & also the befriending & counselling service "Friend". In the next few months, CHE will be trying to tidy up the present rag-bag of anti-gay legislation with its own Sexual Law Reform Bill. So it's worth examining the state of the present law. Lots of people tend to assume that every gay in the world was liberated by the passing of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act. That is not the case. It did very little for those who happen to be under 21 anywhere in the UK; over 21 in N.Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man or Channel Islands;or in the Merchant Navy or Armed Forces. You can't make love to someone of a different rank in the Armed Forces no matter what your age is.

BUGGERY

Until the Reformation, the "abominable crime of buggery" was dealt with in Church courts. Until 1861, it was punishable by death. In 1896, an obscure M.P. Hanry Labouchere, managed to get an anti-gayclause inserted in the Criminal Law Amendment Act. That clause, & the 1956 Sexual Offences Act were used to

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E PEOPLE RNED ME ABOUT

hound gay men & gay establishments. In 1965 & 1966, there were attempts to get Law Reform through Parliament, & in 1967, an Act was finally passed which allowed consenting adults to make love in private.

CONSENT

So although the sexual age of majority for most people is 16, for homosexual men it is 21.

In the Netherlands, the Speijier Commission sat from 1968 to 1970 taking evidence from all sorts of people, including the police, about homosexuality & concluded that no one could be 'turned' into a homosexual, even at the tender age of 16, by taking part in homosexual acts. The age for sexual consent was subsequently reduced to 16.

PRIVACY

The definition of privacy is open to very loose interpretation. For instance - if a 3rd person is present, even if fast asleep, your conduct is not private. If your bedroom has thin curtains & you cast a shadow - beware sharp eyed neighbours. Even with the 1967 Act, homosexual acts aren't considered "fully lawful" by the highest court in the country, the House of Lords. Even if you fulfil all the legal requirements, there's still a chance that you'll be prosecuted for the Common Law offence of conspiracy, which allows people to be hauled before their worships for arranging to do things which themselves are not illegal. The police have also discovered something to beat us with - the charge of obstruction. In the London area it's become common for gays standing on the pavement outside gay pubs to be run in for obstructing the footpath. If the same tactics were employed against heterosexuals, there would have to be a massive programme for building new jails.

ASTONISHING

There have been instances where prosecutions have occurred even though both men involved were under 21 - which just goes to show what a barmy and barbaric legal system we have.

INGRAINED

CHE's Bill will help to civilise things, but it's not the complete answer. It will take a long time to change deeply ingrained social attitudes, and that won't be achieved by merely changing the law (look at the Race Relations Act). Gays themselves are learning their political power & are beginning to campaign on a number of fronts. We have gay teachers talking to schools as part of sex education programmes. Social Service departments are increasingly asking gays about the social pressures they face & are referring gay clients to CHE. CHE is trying to inform psychiatrists & general practitioners about the normalcy of being gay which was difficult in the past because so few people were prepared to "come out" & live their lives openly as homosexuals. One of the main reasons for this was the vicious & repressive law which penalised male homosexuals who wished to show their love for each other. It's hoped that the day will soon come when ones sexual preference is no longer a dark secret.

HOSTILE

But the task is extremely difficult since the press is so hostile The Manchester Evening News has refused to take ads for the M/C Gay Switchboard. Wigan Observer, Lancashire Evening Post & Warrington Guardian have declined to take local group ads because they are "family" newspapers. CHE's national rally in November in Trafalgar Square, where 2,500 gays gathered, was mentioned in only 2 papers nationally - the Morning Star & the Guardian.

E YOU AS FREE YOU THOUGHT?

? YOU ARE CONSIDERING DEMONSTRATING
TO THE LOVER OF YOUR CHOICE

hat you're not in Scotland or N.

both over 21?

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to a conspiracy charge.

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ind someone. You might get done for

to attract the attention of that
man. It might be construed as
soliciting, & in court it will be
gainst the policeman's.

Now read on...

Homosexual Oppression and Liberation by D.Altman
The Microcosm by M.Duffy
Homosexuality from the Inside by D.Blamires
Sappho was A Right On Woman by S.Abbott & B.Love
With Downcast Gays by Hodges & Hunter
Psychiatry & the Homosexual by Gay Liberation Front
Tearoom Trade by L.Humphreys
The Politics of the Family by R.D.Laing
Sexual Politics by K.Millett
The Politics of Homosexuality by D.Milligan
City of Night by J.Rechy
Time for Consent by N.Pittenger
The Gay Militants by D.Teal
Love Between Women by C.Wolff

Underground information

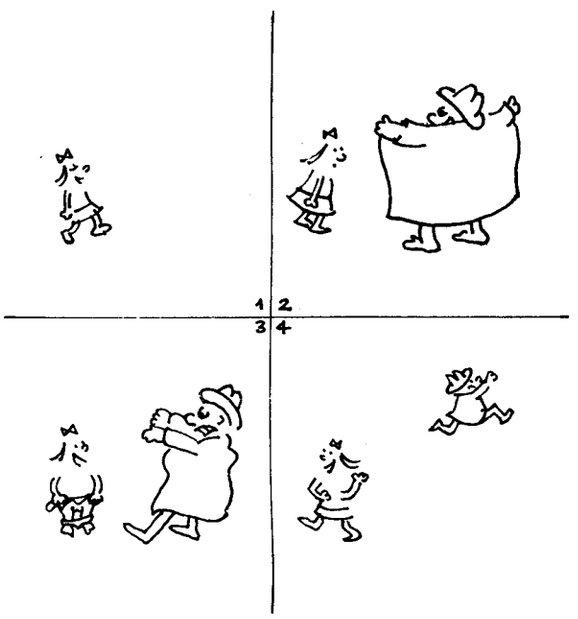
MANCHESTER IS about to fork out more than £1 million for 2 underground car parks each with 200 spaces. They are to be built in the city centre, off Albert Square. It seems likely that when they are completed, these parks will prove a burden to ratepayers & motorists alike.

Manchester's own figures show that the city can only recoup its initial outlay of £1,354,000 if the carparks charge an average of 28p per hour, excl. of VAT. Even at this incredible price, which is approx 3 times the current city centre parking rate, the car parks will still lose money if they're not absolutely full for 7 hours per day(mon-Fri), & 4 hrs on Saturdays. If the price of parking is dropped to 20p per hr the Council estimates that the parks will clock up an annual deficit of £63,225.

... recommending the scheme to the Council, ... Policy Committee admitted that the "Albert Square car park is undoubtedly an expensive car park",but argued that the scheme is necessary. They say that plans for the pedestrianisation of St Anne's & Albert Squares plus redevelopment of the city centre will mean that more than 200 on-street parking spaces will soon be lost & will need to be replaced "to meet the needs of the City as an office employment centre" & "to enable the existing central area to operate satisfactorily". These arguments haven't convinved the Greater M/C Transport Action Group(GMTAG) In a report on "Car Parking & M/C City Centre", published towards the end of last year, GMTAG suggest that the parks aren't needed.

They say that the car parks "originated ostensibly to meet the needs of an earlier era of planning & in a climate of financial & material resources very different from that of today". GMTAG argue that traffic in the city centre should be restricted to the collection & delivery of goods & people with parking mainly on the perimeter of the centre in surface car parks. They also ask for a "park-&-ride" scheme to get people into the city centre from the perimeter parks. Finally, the group point out that "there would be substantial economic and environmental benefits if the City Centre were made a much more attractice place for the majority who visit or work in it - pedestrians & users of public transport".

The report is available from GMTAG, 57 Homewood Rd, Manchester. 12p incl postage.



Squats galore

More than 20 Moss Side and Hulme properties are now occupied by squatters.This recent squatting upsurge,reflecting a grave local crisis in cheap rented accomodation,has not been given much space in the local press. As usual,the local rags have been dominated by the virtuoso performances of Allan Roberts,Manchester's dynamic(and ambitious) housing committee chairman.Cllr Roberts is a headline pincher in the classical Wilson tradition.

Remember his recent effort about MCR taking over all private rented property in the city witnin five years?That particular gem rather annoyed some of the lesser lights in the housing dept.,whose job it is to persuade reluctant landlords to spend money on keeping their now apparently threatened properties in decent condition pending take-over.

Shelter bonus

PROFITS MADE in M/C during last years student rent strike over the low level of grants will be well spent. UMIST students paid all their rent, which came to £20,000, into a special fund which was invested. The interest on the unpaid rent was £740 which the students have voted to give to Shelter.

It's not our Vault

THE EVENING NEWS recently reported that Salford men want to restore "that vanishing stronghold of male chauvinism, the men only saloon". Men only vaults are plain and spartan but the drinks are a bit cheaper,and

it's generally the only games room. In those pubs therefore, women can't have a game of cards or darts and can't benefit from the cheaper ale. Yet the Salford housing committee has agreed to urge the N.W.Brewers Association to encourage the restoration of men-only rooms, so that men can enjoy themselves freely without having to worry about embarrassing women with their language. There is no apparent concern for women and their views.

The N.W.Brewers Assoc doesn't as yet have a policy on vaults but "if there's justification for them, we would look carefully at the situation". The Assoc therefore doesn't rule out the possibility of a policy being made in favour of men only vaults.

Hydes Anvil Brewery has no particular policy on vaults & leaves it up to the "customers" to determine whether there is one. Robinsons has no general policy either but doesn't particularly approve of vaults because they prefer to "keep the house open to everyone". Holts leave it up to the individual landlord. Whitbreads has no special policy on men only vaults but in their view "there appears to be no demand for them".

There seems to be no reason at all why mixed vaults can't work & in fact they do exist in some pubs.

Boddies policy

Boddingtons have a policy "even in new pubs to always provide a vault but we have no policy against women. Anyone can go in the vault but in practice few women do. But some of our vaults have a regular female clientele. If discrimination did happen we would investigate it if advisable to do so. But if the men walked out because women were coming in, we would also have to look to our business interests".

In other words, the brewers are only concerned about maintaining their profits.

Boddies pub

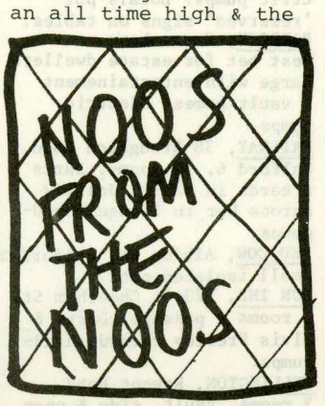
Freep went to a new Boddington pub in Salford, the Kildakin , and this has a vault as big as the lounge with a notice saying "men only" It was the only games room. One woman there, whose husband was in the vault playing cards,said she'd been married for 13 years & didn't really object to the men only vault "because when I was at home for all those years looking after the kids, at least I knew he wasn't with another woman". But when she was out with her husband, she did object to his being in one room while she had to sit in another. Besides which, she would have liked a game of cards herself. Her husband did not in fact object to the idea of her, or other women, going in to the vault. His young mate felt the same.They only used the vault because there was no other room in which they could play cards.

Some of the younger Salford women we talked to were strongly opposed to men only rooms. They saw it as sexual discrimination.

In urging more men only rooms, the Salford Housing Committee is endorsing discrimination against women and the idea that pubs are primarily for men.

News from the News

THOSE HARD pressed & underpaid journalists on the Evening News were more than a little taken aback by the company's working report for last year which appeared in January '75 In it, managing director Hopwood reported that 1973/74 was a "magnificent year",with advertising revenue at an all time high & the



circulation drop nearly arrested. The group profit rose to £1.5 million & investment income nearly doubled to £627,000.

At the beginning of 1974, when the Evening News NUJ (National Union of Journalists) chapel was negotiating a new "house" agreement, the story from the management was very different. Advertising was going down, they were told, & the company's financial position was in a perilous state like the rest of the economy. Brian Redhead, the absentee editor, muttered darkly, as he does every year, about the shadow of redundancy.

Just how he is going to explain this "magnificent year" to the NUJ chapel is not clear, but he will probably be taking advice from Mr Hopwood who is proving to be a past master at the game.

Hopwood goes on to say in the report how delighted he is at the stable labour relations & how the staff are enthusiastically cooperating with new techniques. Nowhere in his statement are the journalists mentioned (since he's basically a baked bean promotion man),but some with diligent memories will remember him storming out of the NUJ negotiations last year on two occasions. Still, that was considered to be a more acceptable tactic than Mr Redhead's celebrated "fuck off" to the chapel on a previous occasion.

Tanks a lot

THE WAY things are going we could well see the tanks rolling in Manchester before too long. After the massive display of military hardware at Heathrow a few months ago, the security forces thought it was time to have a blitz at other airports as well. Ringway was in line for a seeing to when a BAC 1-11 was highjacked at the beginning of January '75. The highjacker hadn't been searched, because unlike International flights, only 50% of passengers are searched when leaving Ringway on a domestic flight.

Full security checks will start on all flights by the end of January but that may not be soon enough for the warriors in Whitehall.

For the benefit of those who cannot tell the time the clock is seven minutes fast

Once again FREEP sups up - this time in Salford

Unlike most other places, Salford can match Manchester's share of good beer. Just an indication of the variety of ale & concentration of pubs can be gained from visiting 7 of them within a hundred yards on Ordsall Lane, serving Wilsons, Holts, Lees, Greenalls & Tetleys. And within a mile you can get a pint of Marstons, Sam Smiths, John Smiths, Boddingtons or Robinsons.

BLAND

The large companies, Whitbread & Bass Charrington, still ofier their now bland beers under local disguises throughout the area. It's interesting to note Charles Tidbury, Whitbreads managing director, saying his company may again brew real ale, but 'it may cost more'; while Bruce Cunningham, speaking for Watneys, claims real draught beer has a 'profit advantage' over pressurised beer).

STRONG

Of the beer, Boddingtons was our personal favourite. Its strong characteristic flavour varied little from pub to pub. The Marstons, Lees, Robinsons & Holts were all well kept & in prime condition. Unusually, both the Wilsons & the Greenalls varied. In general they were good, but once or twice they were unpalatable possibly because the barrel was old. It wasn't possible to judge the Tetleys due to industrial action. We felt we were being served DD for bitter.

DIFFERENT

Our listing is slightly different from that of M/C's pubs (Freep 28). In Salford, we tried to find as many pubs as we could that served good local brews & to point out where unusual beers can be drunk. There are too many Wilsons & Greenalls pubs to list in full, so we've confined our recommendations to those below.

Broadly, there are two distinct types of pub in Salford. The new, large ones, found in the high rise estates, are almost exclusively owned by the large national brewers. We found none serving Hydes, Holts, Robinsons or Lees; and only onewhich had Boddingtons. They have car parks, large open rooms, higher prices, worse beer & lots of customers. This isn't surprising. Two or three of these large pubs are supposed to replace a dozen or so smaller ones.

Most of the other pubs are small, with a vault, a passage, & a couple of rooms round a small bar with between 4 & 6 handpumps, good beer at cheap prices & a small number of regulars. With a few exceptions, none of them could have been decorated in the last ten years. The brewers seem to regard them with the same distain as the council regards the people who live nearby.

STRANGE

This is strange, as they must have a great deal of money to spend on fancy new palaces like the Golden Gate, The Rotunda, or the Lima. Even Boddingtons (whose recent profits rose despite a general falling trend in the industry) can afford to build new pubs, and redecorate their larger old ones (eg the Kersal Hotel), but as far as we can see they have not spent very much money on their smaller pubs in Salford. They make high profits on good cheap beer & it's about time they matched the quality of their pubs with the excellence of their beer.

CHOICE

So the choice is yours. Do you want indifferent beer, at higher prices, in plastic surroundings? Or the real stuff, cheaply, in a small, possibly ill-maintained local?

Boddingtons

BLACK FRIARS, 13 King St, Salford 3. Small & friendly 3 rooms, corridor, darts in vault. Hamdpumps.

BRAZIERS ARMS, 54 Hodson St Salford 3. Juke box in concert room - group at week end. 2 TVs, one in vault with darts, other in smoke room. Handpumps.

CHURCH INN, Hilton St. Vault with darts, dominoes & cards. 2 other rooms. Handpumps.

DERBY ARMS, off Regent Rd. 2 rooms. Vault with darts; other with piano. Handpumps

DUCIE HOTEL, Strangeways. Small pub. 2 rooms. Handpumps.

KERSAL HOTEL, Moor Lane. Large pub with large rooms. Electric pumps.

KILDAKIN, Only new Boddies pub. 2 large rooms, one with 'men only" sign. Electric pumps. Locals put 'reserved' signs on tables.

PADDOCK, Cross Lane. Best bet for estate dwellers Large with entertainement & vault games. Electric pumps.

RAILWAY, 38 Broughton Road, Salford 6. 2 rooms. Darts & cards in vault. Jollity across bar in lounge. Handpumps.

RED COW, Albion St, Salford 5 Small isolated pub.

SUN INN, 223 Gt Cheetham St. 3 rooms & passage. Darts & Elvis Presley records. Handpumps.

WELLINGTON, Regent Road. 3 rooms. Vault, side & open room. Handpumps, games & an open fire.

Holts

EAGLE INN, Rolla Street, Salford 3. 3 small rooms. TV & good mixed company in vault. Handpumps.

BRICKLAYERS ARMS, Ordsall Lane. Vault with telly. Bar parlour with juke box. Passage with art nouveau glass. Handpumps.

SPREAD EAGLE, Regent Road. 2 rooms. TV in bar. Handpumps.

There are many other Holts pubs out towards Eccles & in Prestwich.

Lees

WELCOME INN, Ordsall Lane. Small pub with 2 rooms, vault & general room with juke box & bandit. Handpumps.

Apart from Rembrandt in M/C, the nearest other Lees houses are both in Simister Lane, Prestwich - the Farmers Arms & the Same Yet.

Marstons

SPINNERS ARMS
3 rooms, juke box, piano, PA, darts. Clean well kept pub & beer. Handpumps.

Others

For those who fancy Yorkshire ale:

PEEL PARK TAVERN, (John Smiths), Chapel Street. 2 rooms. Telly & pintable in bar. Footy in back room

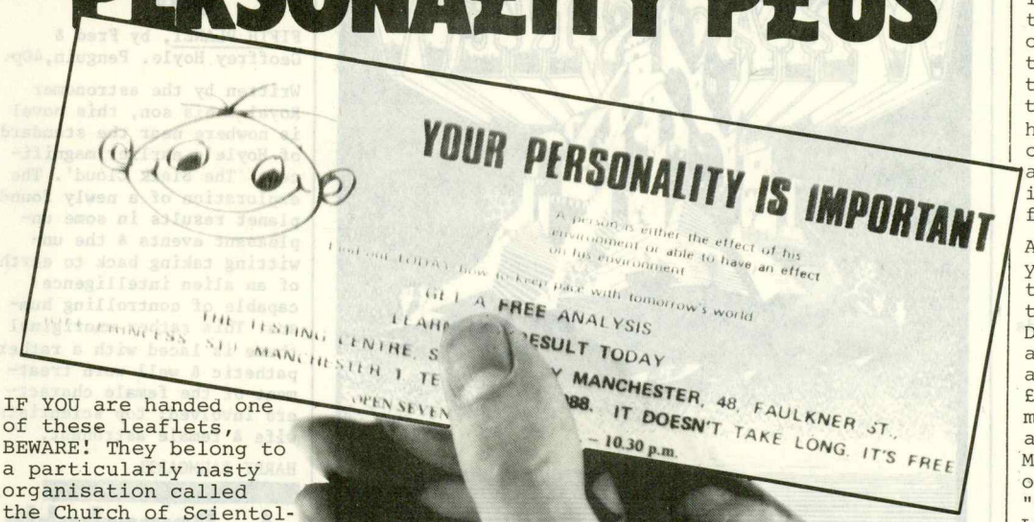
EDGERTON ARMS, (John Smiths) Off Bailey St, Salford 3. 3 rooms.

CHURCH INN, (Sam Smith). Cross Lane. Darts in mixed vault. Waiter in lounge.

PRINCE OF WALES, (Sam Smith) Broughton Rd. Large rooms. Plush.

If you are still puzzling over the title, its a sign on display in the Spread Eagle, Regent Road.

PERSONA£ITY P£US


YOUR PERSONALITY IS IMPORTANT
A person is either the effect of his environment or able to have an effect on his environment
A FREE ANALYSIS
MANCHESTER, 48, FAULKNER ST.,
IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG. IT'S FREE
10.30 p.m.

IF YOU are handed one of these leaflets, BEWARE! They belong to a particularly nasty organisation called the Church of Scientology, which is currently operating from a first floor warehouse at 48 Faulkner St in the city centre. One of Freep's reporters went along to take advantage of the 'free analysis' & not surprisingly, was told that he was in a bad way & needed the help of scientology. The analysis was the last bit of the "free" offer, because within 10 minutes, Freep had been offered a tatty book for £3, knocked down to £1 when Freep pleaded poverty.

Hubbard

The 'church' was founded in America by Ron L.Hubbard, self styled "exhibition photographer, highly successful writer, master mariner, glider pilot, recognised explorer & horticulturist". To his followers, Ron is the origin of all truth & the potential saviour of the world. To the cynical observer, with his combination of mysticism & business skill, Ron seems more like a cross between the prophet Mohammed & Howard Hughes.

The claims of Scientology are to say the least, impressive. In a scientology pamphlet called "Handling Life", Ron says that Scientology can among other things "improve the IQ of an individual, his ability or desire to communicate, his social attitudes, his capability & domestic harmony, his artistic creativity, his reaction time and his health". And that's just the introductory courses. The advanced courses apparently invest scientologists with supernatural powers such as the ability to influence events & objects by the power of the mind, power "beyond mans wildest dreams", according to the scientology magazine "Advance".

To achieve these dramatic powers, the budding scientologist must be"processed" by "auditors" through successive stages of development until he becomes a "Clear". What this really means is that sceptics are weeded out at an early stage & only the more susceptible candidates go beyond the introductory courses, an important factor in the financial aspects of scientology.

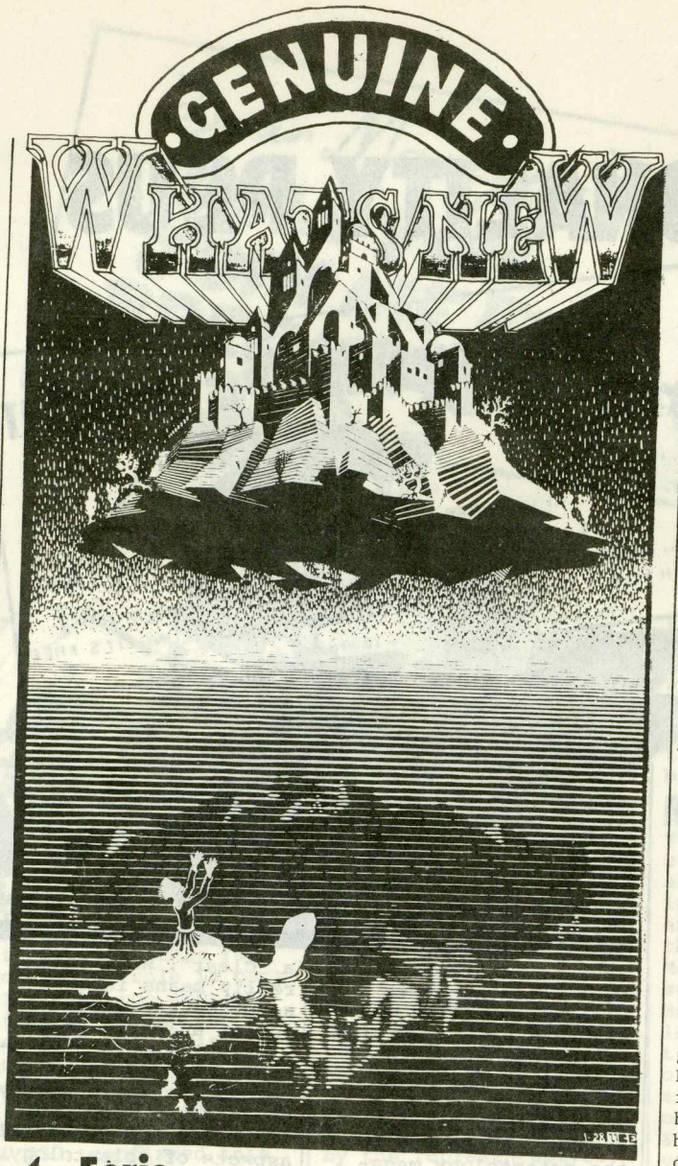
Once the sceptics have gone, the "prepared" candidates are offered the "clearing course" at a cost of £368.50 (1973 figures)in installments (350.08 if paid in advance). Once a candidate has forked out that kind of money it becomes difficult to admit he's been conned so he goes on to the next stage. By the time he reaches the most advanced stage, he probably doesn't care about the cost anymore, but in 1973 it worked out at a further £1,543.50.

And that's not all.Now you can become an"auditor" (priest) by taking the "Hubbard Standard Dianetics Course" (Donation £200) & the "Primary Rundown" (Donation £125). Still got some money left? Right. How about the "Hubbard E. Meter" (Donation £66), or Ron's greatest hits "The Power of Source" LP (Donation £3.00) which is "taking the music world by storm".

But at least you'll be able to do things like this:
"One day while watching a live soccer game on television I became aware of the clouds overhead my house and began pushing them around. Then I became aware of the clouds at the location of the football ground & began moving them around, mostly to make the sun shine on the soccer game. This was fun".

By the time you reach the end of the scientology courses, you'll be poor & probably mad. Ron is currently working on 15 new levels for his flock - never give a sucker an even break.

Manchester
Free Press



Better than Bamber

ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF DATES & EVENTS, ed by L.C.Pascoe Coronet, £1.75.

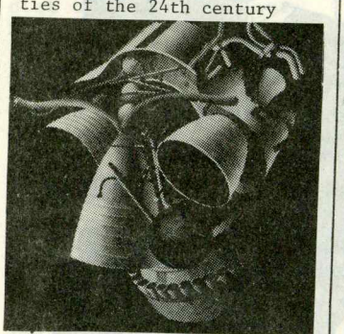
Do you know when Matilda left England? No? Then its probably because noone stuffed your Chrissey sock with this 812 page book. Had you been the proud recipient of it then you too would be able to rattle off an astonishing array of facts & figures with which to regale your friends & score points off boorish people in pubs. With this book hanging handily in the smallest room of your house, you could absorb a wealth of knowledge the like of which even Bamber Gascoigne never possessed. The book is organised by year according to the historical, artistic, literary & scientific events that have occurred since the appearance of the Solar system (6,000,000,000 BC) to 1970. As Elizabeth Goudge has said of this monumental work (6 years in the making a cast of thousands):"this is a wonderful book, just what we have all been longing for for years". And as you sit there,leafing thro the copy that hangs handily nearby, you could only concur most warmly.

PAM KIRK

Puss in books

TIGER! TIGER!, by Alfred Bester. Penguin, 45p.

A fast moving & rivetting story about Gulliver Foyle, a rather odd character driven by an obsessive desire to seek revenge against those who left him marooned in space. Foyle's mission uncovers some murky activities of the 24th century



aristocracy & ends in a spasm of liberation. The deadly knowledge of PyrE is given to the people at large rather than kept as the secret of the ruling clique. The jaunting powers of the mind which enable teleportation also acquire a new dimension. An excellent novel with a very distinctive quality.

Eerie Escher

THE WORLD OF M.C.ESCHER, Abrams, £2.75.

A comprehensive collection of Escher's works. An unusual artist whose eerie & precise work has received much recent popularity. It includes many of his woodcuts, carvings & lithographs, some of which are in colour. But the working drawings, which are also included, are most interesting & informative.

Winner Schnitzle

THE PENGUIN BOOK OF GERMAN STORIES, Penguin 60p.

Straightforward collection of short stories illustrating the main trends of German prose writing from Goethe to the present. They suffer by comparison with British & French skills in the same genre but should help to get rid of traditional British resistance to German culture. Apart from pieces by Kleist, Hoffmann, & Hauptman, there is an amusing story by the little known Schnitzler (who was a big influence on Kafka), an ironic vignette by Thomas Mann, & a now famous attack on the media by Nobel prize winner Heinrich Boll.

ROY JOHNSON

Soul music

A TOUCH ON THE TIMES, ed. by Roy Palmer. Penguin 80p.

Subtitled "Songs of Social Change: 1770 to 1914" this is a fascinating collection of songs, drawings, photographs, & commentary illustrating the real history of the Industrial Revolution & its aftermath. Songs of the Chartists & the farm labourer, the Oldham Weavers, the Poor Law, the Workhouse, & pollution in dirty old Manchester. As well as being a compilation which will help keep some of the old 'penny ballads' alive, it also contains valuable source material for a serious study of the nineteenth century.

ROY JOHNSON

Worn out

FIFTH PLANET, by Fred & Geoffrey Hoyle. Penguin,40p.

Written by the astronomer Royal & his son, this novel is nowhere near the standard of Hoyle's earlier magnificent 'The Black Cloud'. The exploration of a newly found planet results in some unpleasant events & the unwitting taking back to earth of an alien intelligence capable of controlling humans. This rather unoriginal theme is laced with a rather pathetic & well worn treatment of the female characters involved: top scientists wife & female astronaut.

HARRY BAUMGARTL

Remarkable Rama

RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA, by Arthur C.Clarke. Pan, 50p.

The first novel since 2001 from Britains most established contemporary SF author. Written as usual with technical & literary precision, it describes the exploration of Rama, a vast & mysterious cylindrical space vessel from unknown reaches of the galaxy. The descriptions of Rama by Clarke are impressive, although on occasions, he gets carried away with his delight in exhaustive details. As a whole, the novel conveys in a remarkable fashion the response of man to what is apparently incomprehensible. Economy of action & plot pervade a gradual mounting atmosphere of anticipation & speculation.

HARRY BAUMGARTL

Russian rhubarb

POST WAR RUSSIAN POETRY,ed. by Daniel Weissbort.Penguin 60p.

Not all Russian writers are in permanent protest against their government, & it's to the credit of this collection that it includes work by the officially sponsored Yevtushenko & Voznesensky, both of whom regularly travel abroad as cultural ambassadors. But their work pales alongside that of 'resisters' like Anna Akhmatova (once described as "half nun, half whore" because she mentioned religion & sexuality) & the brilliant Joseph Brodsky, now in American exile(who has a passionate affinity with the English metaphysical poets & John Donne in particular.

Nazi nuances

THE SORROW & THE PITY, Picador.

This is the film script of the award winning documentary made by Marcel Olphus (son of Max) about the German occupation of France during World War II. Confined to the provincial city of Clermont- Ferrand, it explores the extent of resistance & collaboration & looks at the extent to which people have learnt from their experiences of the Nazis. What emerges is an amazing & sometimes frightening picture of people who closed their eyes to atrocities & tortures, who betrayed their neighbours to the Gestapo, who joined the German army or their local branch of the fascists, & many of whom still today believe that they did the most honourable thing. Fortunately, there were those who fought back in the resistance movement (an odd mixture of Communists & Nationalists) but they were far fewer than might be imagined, & they had to hide their activities in the face of official disapproval from the collaborationist government of the 'Patriot' Petain.
A very chastening reminder of hos it might'happen here' & a remarkable human document which makes for compulsive reading.

ROY JOHNSON

Bye bye sky

THE SKY IS FALLING IN, by Lester del Rey. New Eengland Library, 30p.

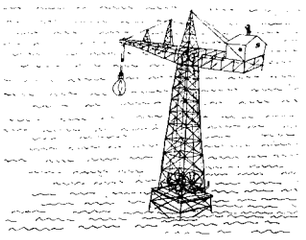
More fantasy than SF, this story is set in a parallel earth with completely different physical/magical laws. Davè Hanson's task is to stop big chunks of the sky falling down & to overcome the intrigues of the Sons of the Egg. Unsurprisingly, this takes a little wizardry as well as ingenuity.

HARRY BAUMGARTL

Kiddies kolumn

JUST SO STORIES, by Rudyard Kipling. Piccolo, 40p.

A new edition of Kipling's explanations of animal and social evolution. The stories still retain a freshness & fantasy aided by Kipling's original illustrations.

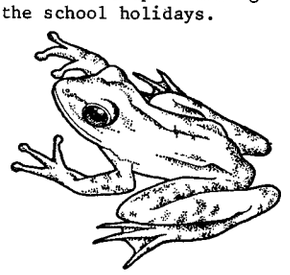


THE CRANE, by Reiner Zimnik. Puffin, 25p.

This is a sad thought provoking tale of a man who dedicates himself to the crane which he drives, remaining with it despite war & other catastrophes.

PICCOLO ALL THE YEAR ROUND BOOK, by Deborah Manley. Piccolo, 50p.

This is an interesting month by month breakdown of things to look out for, things to make & information about happenings during the month. Enough here to keep most children occupied during the school holidays.



MACHINES AT HOME, by Gareth Anderson. Puffin, 25p.

This is an attractive history & explanation of the development of domestic machines since the Norman times. The pen & ink illustrations are plentiful & the whole effect is very interesting.

SUSAN KIRSCH

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ADS AND INFO

CONFERENCE

A TWO DAY CONFERENCE will be held on 15-16 February 1975, which hopes to draw together representatives of groups involved in the Womens movement, Men against sexism, Gay liberation and any interested individuals to discuss common ground, build closer links between groups, & to discuss the effects of sexism. It's hoped that the conference will take the form of several 2 hour workshops & if anyone would like to lead one or suggest things which they would like discussed, do so before Jan 31st. For further details, contact Gwyn Parfitt, Union Sec, Bristol Polytechnic Students Union, Ashley Down, Bristol. There'll be a dance on the Sat night. Creche available.

CHE

CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality) have a number of groups in the Manchester area Altrincham, 10 Springfield Rd 928 8756: Manchester,24 Lapwing Lane, Didsbury, 445 2889 Oldham, Owen 665 1625:Wigan Bernard 625209: CHE Youth Group, Side Door, 7 Birch Hall Lane, Longsight,Terry 225 9779; CHE Gay Womens Group, Sue or Liz 881 3683.

For further info contact Bob Crossman 928 8756 or write CHE,28 Kennedy St,M/C.

GINGERBREAD

GINGERBREAD meets on 1st Mon & 3rd Tues each month, 8pm at M/C Univ.Student Union

FABIAN SOCIETY

MANCHESTER FABIAN SOCIETY There will be a joint meeting with the Manchester University Branch of the Fabian Society on the 13th February 1975 on "COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING", in the C.ofE. Chaplaincy, Precinct Centre, Oxford Rd, M/C at 7.45pm. Everyone welcome.

LEGAL

RUSHOLME Legal Advice Centre St James Parish Hall, Danes Road, Rusholme. Tuesdays 6.30-9.30pm.

UNIVERSITY Legal Advice Centre 178 Waterloo Place (Oxford Road) Manchester 13. Tel. 273 4575. Mon-Fri 1-3pm. Tues & Thurs 5.30-7.30pm.

NELLO JAMES CENTRE, 136 Withington Road, Manchester 16. Tel 226 4164. Evening legal advice.

HELP

TAKE DEVELOPMENT LAND into Public Ownership. Anyone interested in helping to organise national campaign on this issue ring Chris 733 8813 or contact BRAG A45 Du Cane Crt,Balham High Rd SW17.

ADVICE

BRADFORD: Rylance St.Area Action Group (especially clearance advice):223 0181.

CHEETHAM HILL: Haliwell Lane Advice Centre, 100 Haliwell Lane: Mon & Thurs 5.30-7.30pm:Tues,Wed,Fri. 2.30-4.30pm. Advice on welfare Rights, housing law & redevlopment in the area.

MOSS SIDE: Housing advice. Moss Side Pastoral Centre, Great Western Street. Mon & Wed. 5.30-7pm. 226 3886.

COLLYHURST/HARPURHEY:Neighbourhood Info Centre,Community Services Centre, Paget St. (off Rochdale Rd) Manchester 10. Tel 205 6292.

STOCKPORT: Advice Centre, of sorts. The Tusky Dog,25 Stock port Road, Gorsey Bank, Stock port. 477 2301. Essentially a shop selling cheap, useful stuff like clothes 5-10p.Also runs cheap transport & furniture service.

SALFORD: Rights stall in market: Sat. Also Community Hous run by Docks Action Group. Contact Billy Gill, 8 Broadway, Salford 5.

Also: Underdog, 83 Camp St, Salford 7. Tues,Thurs,Fri. 12-4pm. Gives advice on SS benefits, supplementary etc.

PARTINGTON: Paople's Rights Office. Daily. 775 6130.

FOLK CLUB

SONG CARRIERS FOLK CLUB is held every Friday in the Millstone, Hilton St, M/C. Whether old or new, the music is based firmly in the folk tradition. For further info phone 061-737 8628 or write to: 17 Hillside Drive, Pendlebury, M/C.

MENTAL PATIENTS

MANCHESTER MENTAL PATIENTS Union now meets regularly at 178 Oxford Road, M/C 2. Every Saturday at 3pm.

Further info from M/C MPU c/o Estelle Beninson, 2 York Place
York Avenue, Prestwich.

NORMEDIA

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC at the Royal College of Music 8pm. 27th January '75, New Music Ensemble of Cologne will play from Kagel's "Repertoire" - UK Premiere. 24th February '75, USA composers with theatrical elements, incl UK Premieres of Steve Smith's "Ad Rem", & Alvin Lucier's "Vespers".

After the show, time for discussion with composers & musicians.

FRAME-UP

NEED ANY PRINTING DOING? We are low cost silk screen printers. We can print posters, teeshirts,stickers etc. Frame-Up Posters, 79 Sussex Street, Salford 7. Tel 832 4825.

LESBIANS

THE LESBIAN COLLECTIVE meets at 8pm every Tuesday at the Women's Liberation Centre, 218 Upper Brook St,M/C 13. Phone Glossop 4142 for more information.

FANTASY

FANTASY CONVENTION will be held on 26th April 1975 at Grand Hotel, Aytoun St, M/C. Doors will open about 11am & there'll be over 30,000 comics, sci-fi and horror mags on sale. Some films will be shown late afternoon. Admission 10p.

DISADVANTAGED

ONE DAY CONFERENCE to consider ways of helping the disadvantaged adult will be held on 11th February at the College of Adult Education, 10.30am. Among the topics will be: "Adult Illiteracy", "Ethnic Minorities", "Physically Handicapped", Neighbourhood Participation" & "Young People at Risk". Contact M/C Council for Voluntary Service for further details. Fee £1. Applications before 31st January.

CAMRA

NORTH MANCHESTER GROUP is going to visit Lees Brewery on 29 Jan '75., 12.30pm Contact 061 764 2198.
SOUTH MANCHESTER GROUP is meeting on 23 Jan '75 at 8pm in the Gateway, Wilmslow Rd, Parrs Wood.

MARXISM

MANCHESTER CENTRE FOR MARXIST EDUCATION is running the following courses from Jan '75, all fortnightly unless otherwise stated: "Basic Marxism"(weekly); "Intermediate Marxism";Marxist Economics"; "History of the British Labour Movement". Contact G.Hodgson, 12 Kenilworth Ave, W.Didsbury, M/C.

NCCL

PAMPHLET PRODUCED by the NCCL M/C Group on "The Law, the State & Ireland" is now available from Rhys Vaughan at 44 Demesne Rd, M/C 16. It's a comprehensive guide to the Emergency Provisions Act & other legislation relevant to the Irish question.

There will be NCCL meetings in the Students Union,Oxford Rd, M/C on the 16th & 30th January 1975 at 7.30pm. Motions for National Conference will be discussed at the 16th Jan meeting. All welcome.

For further info on NCCL contact R.Vaughan at 226 7992

WOMEN

WOMEN'S RIGHTS GROUP & Women's Aid Group both c/o Women's Liberation Centre. 218 Upper Brook St, Manchester 13.

WOMEN'S LIBERATION INFORMATION Service. Mon.-Thurs. 7.30-9p.m 218 Upper Brook St,M/C.273 2287

POLICY MEETING on the 20th Jan, on "The Working Womens Charter: Can we organize around it". Further details from the Womens centre. Tel 273 2287.

WOMEN'S AID CONFERENCE, on 18th Jan 1975 in Leeds. Tel Womens Centre for info.

WOMEN'S AID, Stockton Rd Chorlton badly needs bunk beds.

CONTACTS

WOMEN'S GROUP CONTACTS: Central M/C, L.Conder 248 7688: South M/C, M.Baguley 962 5642; North M C, Jill or Leslie, 792 5642; Chorlton, Mary Duncan, 888 4660; Didsbury, Judy Hunt, 445 4669; Didsbury 2, Judith Wainwright, 434 3327; Stockport 1, Ruth Hetherington, 442 9679; Stockport 2, Teresa Grant, 432 3752.

SCIENCE

SCIENCE FOR PEOPLE GROUP is meeting on 23 Jan '75 at 8pm in the Beef & Barley pub, Oxford Rd, M/C. Everyone welcome.

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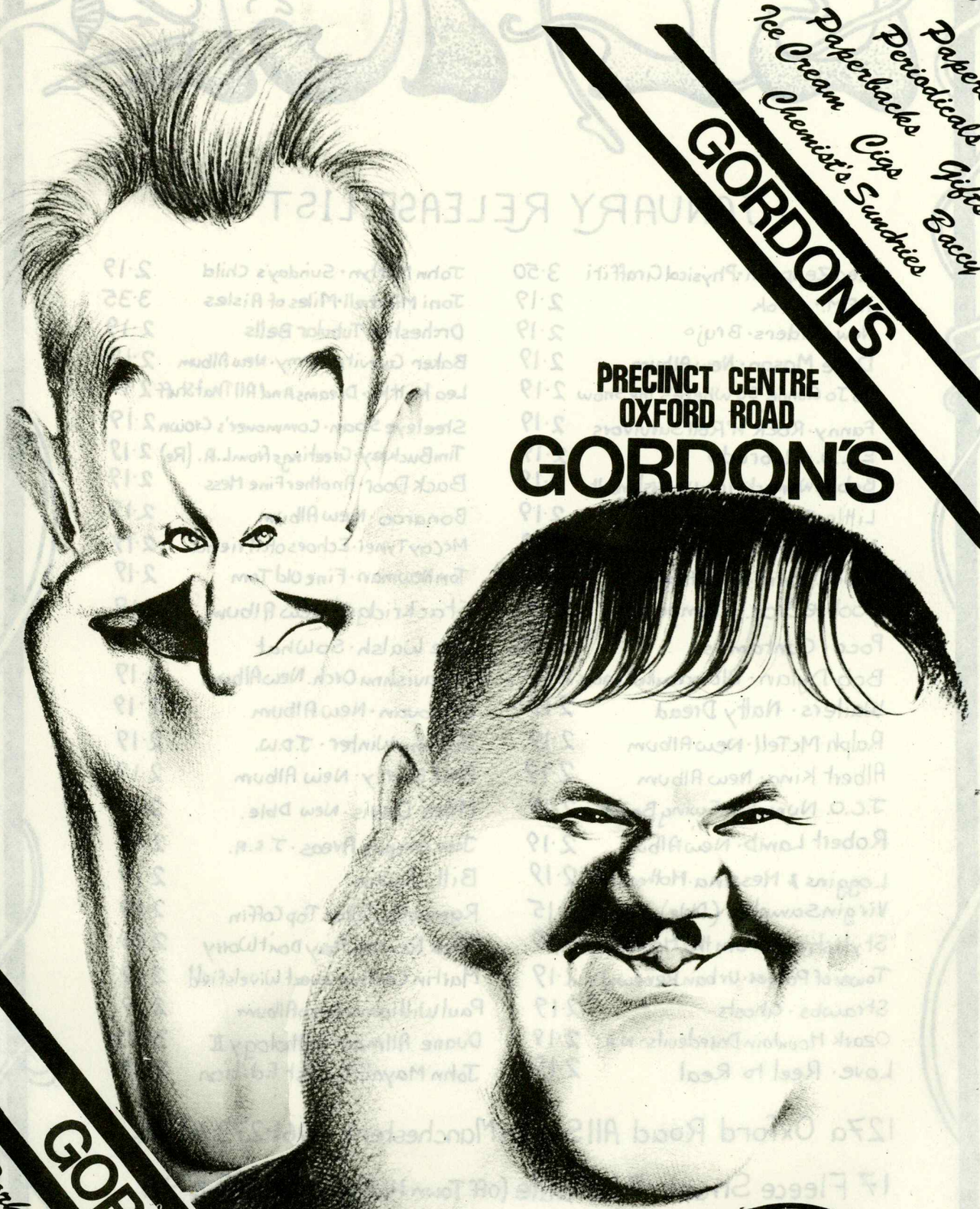

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P.F.M. · Cook	2·19	Joni Mitchell · Miles of Aisles	3·35
New Riders · Brujo	2·19	Orchestral Tubular Bells	2·19
Dave Mason · New Album	2·19	Baker Gurvitz Army · New Album	2·19
Jo Jo Gunne · So Where's The Show	2·19	Leo kottke · Dreams And All That Stuff	2·19
Fanny · Rock 'n' Roll Survivors	2·19	Steeleye Span · Commoner's Crown	2·19
E.L.O. · Eldorado	2·19	Tim Buckley · Greetings from L.A. (Re)	2·19
Bobby Womack · I can Understand It	2·19	Back Door · Another Fine Mess	2·19
Little Feat (Re-release)	2·19	Bonaroo · New Album	2·19
McCoy Tyner · Sama Layuka	2·19	McCoy Tyner · Echoes of a Friend	2·19
Flora Purin · New Album	2·19	Tom Newman · Fine Old Tom	2·19
Doobie Bros. Stampede	2·19	Stackridge · New Album	2·19
Poco · Cantamos	2·19	Joe Walsh · So What	2·19
Bob Dylan · Blood on the Tracks	2·19	Mahavishnu Orch. New Album	2·19
Wailers · Natty Dread	2·19	Donovan · New Album	2·19
Ralph McTell · New Album	2·19	Johnny Winter · J.D.W.	2·19
Albert King · New Album	2·19	Phil Everly · New Album	2·19
J.C.O. Numatik Swing Band	2·19	Miles Davis · New Dble.	2·19
Robert Lamb · New Album	2·19	Jose Chepito Areas · J.C.A.	2·19
Loggins & Messina · Motherlode	2·19	Billy Swan	2·19
Virgin Sampler (Dble)	3·15	Ramases · Glass Top Coffin	2·19
Stylistics · From the Mountain	2·19	Mick Ronson Play Don't Worry	2·19
Tower of Power · Urban Renewal	2·19	Martin Carthy · Sweet Wivelsfield	2·19
Strawbs · Ghosts	2·19	Paul Williams · New Album	2·19
Ozark Mountain Daredevils · N.A.	2·19	Duane Allman · Anthology II	3·50
Love · Reel to Real	2·19	John Mayall · Latest Edition	2·19

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